

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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WINSTON, N. C.

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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER,
Winston, N. C.

To Correspondents.

Write all communications, designed for publication, on one side of the paper.

Rejected communications will be numbered and filed, and the author will be notified. If not applied for in 30 days they will be destroyed. To secure their return postage must be sent with the application. Answers to enquiries will be made through our "Correspondents Column" when it can be done with propriety. We want intelligent correspondents in every county in the State. We want facts of value, results accomplished of value, experiences of value, plainly and briefly told. One solid, demonstrated fact is worth a thousand theories.

Address all communications to
THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER,
Winston, N. C.

Winston, N. C., June 2, 1886.

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THE COSS MARK.

The cross mark on your paper indicates that the time for which you subscribed has or is about to expire. It is to give notice so your subscription may be renewed. If the subscription be not renewed the name will be dropped from the list, but we want every one to renew and bring a friend along too.

FARMERS ORGANIZING.

Send to the PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Winston, N. C., and get a form of Constitution and By-Laws for organizing Farmers Clubs. Mailed to you free of charge. Every neighborhood should have a well organized Farmers' Club.

State exchanges please copy the above and we will most gladly reciprocate the favor.

A BEAUTIFUL PREMIUM.

To every one who will send us a subscriber for a year, within the next 90 days, accompanied by two dollars, we will mail post paid a copy of "Passion Flower and other Poems," by Theo. H. Hill, of Raleigh, N. C. It is a book that should be in the library of every family in the State.

—The cotton crop of the South, up to date, foots up 6,327,294 bales.

—There are 26,000 children attending the public schools in Washington Territory.

—Commencement exercises at Trinity College take place on the 9th and 10th inst.

—Snow to the depth of several inches was reported in various towns of Northern Vermont last Thursday.

—Armour, the great meat handler of Chicago, has sold to the French Government 7,000,000 pounds of canned meat.

—The city of Roanoke, Va., has by a large majority voted an appropriation of \$100,000 to the Roanoke & Southern Railroad.

—The introduction of oleomargarine as a substitute for butter has caused a loss in this country of \$150,000,000 in milch cattle alone.

—In the county of Pittsylvania, the finest tobacco county in Virginia, the acreage of tobacco has been reduced one-half this year.

—The Democrats carried the municipal elections in Virginia last Thursday, except in the city of Richmond, where the Independents were victorious.

—Mount Aetna is in a state of eruption, the lava threatening to pour over the adjacent country. The streams are drying up and a water famine is feared.

—The grand jury in Chicago has indicted a half dozen of the arrested Anarchists for murder, and a dozen more for assault with intent to kill.

—George W. Julian, Surveyor-General of New Mexico, complains to the Commissioner of the General Land Office that Congress takes no action in three cases of fraudulent land grants reported by him, which keep 300,000 acres from settlement.

—An extensive fruit canning establishment has just been completed at Chattanooga, Tenn. Its capacity will be 5,000 cans a day.

—The average death rate in New Orleans, for six years, is 23.47 per thousand of whites and 43.37 per thousand of blacks, nearly two to one.

—Wm. Brown, aged fourteen, and Miss Anna Cooper, aged thirteen, were married last week at Deerhorn Creek Church, Laurens county, South Carolina.

—Oleomargarine was a topic of discussion in the lower House of Congress the past week. There was nothing of special interest in the Senate.

—The inventors have before them a rich prize—a fortune, for the best machine for gathering peas. The man who will bring it forward will reap a rich reward.

—It is said that James G. Blaine has joined the Knights of Labor. James G. Blaine is one of the "horny-handed sons of toil" who always keeps the lids of his weather eye ajar.

—We hear great complaint of the "cut-worm" in gardens, in corn and to bacco. The Colorado potato bug is also busily at work on the Irish potatoes.

—Six hundred British peers own 14,000,000 acres of land, valued at \$2,000,000,000, from which they receive an annual rental of \$66,000,000. No wonder they are opposed to reform in the tenant system.

—Hugh Maxwell Brooks, the young Englishman who killed his friend Preller in the Southern Hotel at St. Louis, a year or more ago, is now on trial. He admits the killing, but says it was from an accidental overdose of chloroform.

—About 13,500 miles of railroad track have been, or will be, changed within the next few days to conform to the four-foot-nine-inch gauge, the standard gauge, thus making but one gauge for all the roads in the country.

—One Jaehne, a New York Alderman, convicted of having accepted a bribe, has gone to Sing-Sing prison, and thirteen more of them are in a fair way of being sent to keep him company.

—Do not fail to utilize all the available forage on your farm this year. The oat crop is short not only in our State but throughout the country. Save your own hay, and every pound that you can. It will pay you.

—In the late Presbyterian Assembly at Augusta, Ga., they had a lively discussion on evolution, Dr. Woodrow stoutly maintaining his position, and insisting that there was nothing in the Bible contrary to the doctrine of evolution, as held by him.

—President Cleveland is to be married to Miss Frances Folsom, at the White House, this evening. She arrived at New York from Europe last Friday, and was met by Col. Lamont, the President's private secretary, who was sent for that purpose. This seems to settle the matter which has been engaging madam rumor for some time.

—Plant peas in rows for seed. One peck to the acre is sufficient when planted at the proper distance—three feet apart. It takes comparatively little labor to cultivate them. We know of no crop that is so little appreciated in the South. If wanted for forage or for recuperating or renovating the soil, sow broadcast.

—An Iowa Judge has decided that a husband is in duty bound to tell his wife where he spends his evenings when away from home. Correct. Suppose the wife were in the habit of spending her evening away from home and refused to tell her liege lord where she spent them, if he had the curiosity to ask, wouldn't there be a lively racket in the domestic fold? There wouldn't be much Eden about that house until the answer came.

—Maj. Charles H. Smith, the humorous Bill Arp, of Georgia, passed through Charlotte last Thursday on his return from a lecture tour in Eastern North Carolina. While there he was interviewed by the local editor of the *Observer* on the effects of prohibition in Georgia. He said it was a success in his State, and that in his own county, Bartow, where it was carried by only two majority sixteen months ago, it would get 2,000 if submitted a popular vote to-day, and he doubted if there would be two votes polled against it in the county. Everybody saw the benefit of it and everybody favored it. There was no longer any argument upon it. Instead of damaging business, as some said it would, it benefitted business, as was attested by every merchant that he knew in the county.

—The joint canvass between Gen. John B. Gordon and Maj. Bacon for the Democratic nomination for the Governorship of Georgia became so unpleasantly hot that it was abandoned, and each gentleman now strikes out for himself. When high-toned gentlemen, aspiring to the highest office in the State, get to accusing each other of lying, cowardice, &c., it is in order for other high-toned people to call a halt, and inquire if there is not other gubernatorial timber in the State.

—The time for harvesting rye will soon be upon us. Save plenty of seed for next season. Thinking men all over the South are beginning to realize the important truth that we must rescue, restore and "bring up" our exhausted soils, by a judicious system of culture and of crops, especially those crops which, by giving back to the soils, will restore their fertility. One one of the most valuable of these is rye. Save plenty of seed to put on your worn out land, plow it under in spring when in full head and sow in peas, plow these under in fall and put in wheat and you will be astonished at the result. Try it.

—Red rust has made its appearance in the wheat crop in many sections of the State, but so far as we have been informed it is confined to the blade. The oat crop throughout the whole State is very inferior, and our farmers should look well to a supply of hay. The spring has been unusually favorable for the grasses, and we hope to see a fine crop of hay harvested. Do not let the hay lie out and take the sunshine and dews until it is worthless, but take good care to put it in the barn while it is yet sweet and nutritious. See that your barns are provided with an ample supply of nicely cured hay for your stock.

—The recent heavy rains, throughout the Piedmont section especially, have wrought great damage to the crops and cultivated lands. Many of our farmers will have to replant their corn on the bottoms. They have been retarded by the continued rains, and for the next few weeks they will have to work actively and hard to repair the damage. No time should be lost to put their growing crops in good condition by a thorough pulverization of the ground, as possibly it will have to encounter the ordeal of very hot and dry weather. The soil is now packed by the heavy rainfall, and it should be loosened with the plow and hoe as soon as possible.

—We are in receipt of a communication from a correspondent at Sandy Ridge, giving his views of the scope, purposes and objects to be accomplished by organization of farmers, how the farmers' clubs may be made a power to promote the prosperity and better the condition of the tillers of the soil, who now suffer for want of co-operative action, and because they take too little interest in public affairs. He is a believer in the club, and an enthusiastic advocate of thorough organization. If the same spirit actuated farmers in the State generally, it would not be long before they could command the situation, and their voice become so potent as to secure what it asked for without much parley.

SOUTHERN PROSPERITY.

The *Baltimore Manufacturers' Record* published a report of Southern progress some time ago, which was questioned by some papers, a Georgia paper being quoted as saying that the farmers of that State, instead of growing more prosperous, were growing poorer every year. The *Record* then wrote to T. J. Henderson, Commissioner of Agriculture, for such information as he might have bearing upon that question. He promptly replied, saying that while there doubtless were some farmers who were not as well off as they were a few years ago, the farmers of the State generally were in a better condition, and the State as a whole improving, as shown by the increased valuation of taxable property. The farmers had suffered by devoting too much attention to cotton to the exclusion of other crops, paying large commissions to commission merchants for handling, and large profits to other merchants for supplies bought on credit, but that this suicidal policy was slowly giving way to a more sensible and independent system. They have learned the necessity of diversified farming, of raising their own home supplies, and are profiting by what they have learned.

—It is said that there will not be by 40 per cent as much tobacco planted in Western North Carolina as was last year.

SWEET POTATOES TO PREVENT THEM FROM "RUNNING OUT."

No time is to be lost in preparing the land for this crop. It should be well and thoroughly broken and pulverized. Do not put out your slips while the ground is wet—it should be in good condition for ploughing when this is to be done, otherwise the earth that is packed around the roots of the slip will, when the ground dries, become hard and baked—the plant will turn yellow and shed its leaves and be greatly retarded in its growth.

If you have the potato that suits you and you wish to keep it up to its standard and improve it, it can be easily done by the following method:

When preparing your land for the crop reserve a sufficient space for your seed crop. If the slips have been properly set they should, under favorable conditions, begin to throw out vines sufficiently long to enable you to get "cuttings" by the first of July. Prepare your beds or rows as for the original crop. Put into a barrel filled with water, about a half bushel of good stable manure. Put into this all the corn-cobs it will hold. As they absorb the water, put in more, so as to get them thoroughly saturated. With the corner of a hoe chop out a place for each plant about 16 inches apart, along the row. Now go over your patch and cut the vines about 16 to 20 inches in length. Take the cobs in a handle basket (breaking those which may be too long) and have some one to go with you to handle the vines. Take a vine, place it midway on the cob and wrap it around one time, put it in the place made to receive it. Cover it with the loose earth, leaving two joints on each end of the vine exposed or uncovered. No matter how dry and hot the weather may be the vine will grow off beautifully. The cob supplies sufficient fertilized moisture to give the vine a start, and if you would see how charmingly this method works, go and take up one of the cobs forty-eight hours after planting and you will find at each joint of the vine which is in contact with the cob, little rootlets formed and penetrating the interstices of the cob. Ordinarily one good working will be sufficient for this crop. From this crop get all your seed potatoes. Keep up this cheap and simple method and you will always have good potatoes. The tubers will be generally round and smooth, and the best formed of these should be selected for your seed. It is simple, cheap and safe. Try it and be convinced, and write to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER the result of your trial.

SALE OF SWAMP LANDS.

Maj. S. M. Finger, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Secretary of the State Board of Education, offers for sale a body of 44,738 acres of swamp land, constituting Angola Bay, in Pender and Duplin counties. The lands have been partially drained, canals having been cut by State convicts. Ditches cut and leading into these canals will perfect the drainage. Much of the land is pronounced very fertile, and much of it heavily timbered. Bids will be received until July 1, 1886; terms cash.

This calls for a few remarks in which we do not wish to be understood as reflecting upon Maj. Finger or the Board of Education, for they are proceeding in conformity to law, but simply to call attention to what we regard as a mistaken course in the disposition of these swamp lands.

Not very long ago the Board of Education sold a body of heavily timbered lands in Robeson county, susceptible of drainage, at a small outlay of cash, twenty-five thousand acres, if we remember correctly, at the price of twelve and a half cents an acre, to three men, two Northern and one native, who formed the company. This was not selling, it was giving away the land. If it was worth anything it was worth more than that, and if these men could buy it at twelve and a half cents an acre the State could certainly hold it at that price. If these men, three in number, could buy with a view to draining and utilizing with their means, the State, with twelve hundred convicts on her penitentiary roll ought to be able to do it as well, if not better, and as cheaply, if not more cheaply. There was timber enough on that land, if the description was correct, to pay back the purchasers in time a hundred fold the amount of purchase money.

Here we have a tract of 44,738

acres, in which the State, with convict labor, has cut canals and ditches so as to make perfect draining a comparatively cheap and easy matter. And then we have the whole tract put up in a bunch inviting bidders till the 1st of July next.

In reply to a letter of inquiry to Major Finger, he informs us that there have been 96,092 yards of earth excavated in cutting canals and ditches, and that a road nine miles long has been completed. The surveyor estimates:

4,688 acres of the tract as first-class timber land.

20,050 acres second class.

20,000 open land.

How much this work has cost the State we do not know.

What means of advertising the sale have been adopted we do not know, except through a poster which Maj. Finger has kindly forwarded to us, dated April 10th, 1886. Rather a short time, it seems to us, to circulate generally the announcement of the sale of such a large body of land and secure competition in bidding. As the land is to be sold in one body, of course it practically prohibits any but "capitalists" from bidding on it, and consequently only capitalists are invited to bid. The result will be that a few capitalists will put in bids, and if the lands are sold, (the Board reserves the right to reject bids if not satisfactory) they will get them at figures that will yield vast profits to them and add but little to the school fund. How much better it would be if the State, with its convicts, which she has to feed somewhere, continued the work of drainage by cutting these ditches referred to into the canals which have been opened, a small work compared with digging the canals, and then when the drainage was perfected cut up the large tracts into small tracts, so as to be within the reach of people of limited means, and put them upon the market. Then the lands if they were worth anything, "fertile" as represented to be and "heavily timbered," would find competitive bidders, and the Board of Education might realize something out of the sale.

These lands are either good for something or they are good for nothing. If they are good for something the State should get something out of them; if good for nothing the State should not offer them for sale under the representation that they may be made valuable. From a business standpoint there is no good sense in it. North Carolina is not a bankrupt State and is not compelled to sacrifice even swamp lands. If she was, there might be some apology for parting at a trifle with property which, if judiciously managed, might be made a source of handsome income.

THE ROANOKE RAILROAD.

We give in an extra this week a full report of the proceedings of the railroad meeting held in the city of Roanoke, Va., on the 19th of April last, a synopsis of which has heretofore appeared in these columns, and of the subsequent report of the committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce of this city to attend this meeting. It is a full and comprehensive statement of the status and purposes of that great enterprise, and will be read with interest by our people who must take an interest in a matter so pregnant with results for this section of country. The gentlemen who are leading in this movement are men who command the confidence of the people, and are in earnest, as the progressive men of the pushing city of Roanoke are, whose people have recently by a large majority voted an appropriation of \$100,000 to this enterprise. For the present we will content ourselves with commending the report to the attention of our readers, but shall have more to say about this important matter at the proper time.

FARMERS MOVING.

Applications from all quarters of the State are coming in to us for a form of Constitution and By-Laws, for the organization of clubs. A private letter from Cabarrus says:

"Our farmers are becoming clamorous and enthusiastic for organization. Indeed, men who stood aloof from the Grange and who have persistently refused to join that or any other secret organization, are now among the foremost in agitating the Farmer's Club movement. Send us at once the form of Constitution and By-Laws and we will soon be able to report a good club, and I hope a handsome list of subscribers to your valuable journal."